

The QUARAE

Virginia's Ham Radio Antenna Law Aids Local Ordinance Revision

The existence of Virginia's Amateur Radio antenna statute recently was instrumental in convincing the Stafford County Board of Supervisors to adopt changes that make it easier for radio amateurs to erect antenna support structures. Tom Gregory, N4NW -- a former Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator who lives in Stafford -- says that before the amendments went into effect, an Amateur Radio licensee wanting to put up a tower could have been asked to apply for a conditional use permit (CUP) and pay a \$7500 filing fee. Gregory says that's because the old county ordinance did not distinguish between Amateur Radio and cellular towers. The county didn't necessarily oppose ham radio antennas, he said, but the application earlier this year of Lewis Cheek, K4HR, to erect a 120-foot antenna support structure apparently caught county officials unawares. "It was more of a situation that county staff was incapable of making a decision without clear guidelines to say that they could or could not do something," said Gregory.



Stafford County's revised ordinance permits Amateur Radio operation "by right" throughout the county, situated roughly halfway between Richmond and Washington, DC. The changes require ham radio antenna support structures to comply with zoning requirements applying to accessory structures in a given municipality. Virginia's 1998 Amateur Radio antenna law <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+15.2-2293.1> is among the few that go beyond merely incorporating the language of the PRB-1 limited federal preemption <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.html> into state statutes. It also provides minimum regulatory heights of either 75 feet or 200 feet for antenna support structures, depending upon population density. Gregory says just having an Amateur Radio antenna law on the Commonwealth's books helped get the situation off the dime in Stafford County.

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**Radio Association of Erie Club meeting this Thursday
at 7 pm at the RAE Club House on Wagner Road.
Hope to See You There!**



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Club Repeaters

• Erie
146.610-
PL 186.2
• Waterford
146.820-
PL 186.2

Club Website:
www.raerie.org

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Calendar of Events



Thurs. - October 5th— General Membership Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99 in McKean

Tues. - October 24th—Board of Directors Meeting

Time: 7 pm

Location: RAE Clubhouse on Wagner RD.
which is off of Bargain RD off RT 99 in McKean

Public Service Update

On Sept. 9th the Highmark/Caring Place Triathlon was held at Presque Isle State Park starting and finishing at Beach 6. This was a new location this year because of the bridge replacement so we had a new course that actually made it a little easier to



cover. The morning started off with a rain shower when we were in McDonalds prior to the event, so I was a little concerned about weather. When we got on site, the sky was looking dark to the west and thunder was in the air but Alan KB3DUO was monitoring .61 and informed us that the lightning and rain was going to pass off to the west of us. It turned out to be a nice day for a Triathlon. Pat Davis, event coordinator and I would like to thank the following operators for their help in getting 250 participants safely back to the finish line: Bob N3LBI, Sam N3LBI, Troy KB3NSM, Kevin KE3V, Frank KB3NAT, Jim KZ3C, Ron WB3DOM, and Sue N3LPO.

73,

Doug AD4UL

Meeting Minutes

Radio Association of Erie
General Membership Meeting
September 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President KE3V at 7:12 pm at the RAE Clubhouse.

Board Members Present: KE3V, N3ZNP, N3NKV, KD3D, N3LBI, WB3DOM

Not Present: KC2HVX, K3LD, KB3JSN, KD3D

Silent Keys: Phil Ehrman W3QWL

Guest: Representative from McKean Twp. EMA

Secretary's Report: N3NKV asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting as printed in the QUARAE. Motion to accept made by AD4UL. Seconded by KB3NAT. Carried Unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Not Available

Board of Director's Report: N3LBI mentioned that some of the main topics discussed at the board meeting included: classes, additional tower, contesting, JOTA, fundraising, purchase of chairs, status of bylaws

Committee Reports:

Membership: KE3V reported that we got 2 more members.

Repeater: N3SRD reported the problem with the 61 controller hanging may have been found. But there are still noise issues that may be causing it to hang. N3SRD reported that he refilled the batteries with water recently at 82. A link is now up and running via 440 to link to 70.

Public Service: AD4UL reported that the next public service events are the Caring Place Triathlon on Sat. Sept. 9th and MS Bike Ride on Sept 30th and Oct. 1st.

QUARAE: N3NKV mentioned that he need articles for the newsletter.

Website: N3NKV reported that he that he has been in with contact with KC2HVX about the domain transfer. As of present, it has not been completed.

Contesting: AD4UL mentioned that he participated in the Lighthouse Contests and the Maryland/DC QSO Party.

ARES/RACES: N3SRD mentioned that a date for the Simulated Emergency Test has not been announced.

Packet Cluster: N3SRD reported that the ERI digipeater /Node/Packet system will no longer be located at Verizon. It is in the process of being moved to a temporary home at the County EOC.

Classes: WB3DOM mentioned that classes started tonight at the Red Cross. Craig K3PLV will be the instructor while Dan is gone. They are Mondays and Thursdays at 7 pm.

New Business:

Air Conditioners for Clubhouse: N3NKV mentioned that Bob KC2HVX could get the club 2 used air conditioners for the clubhouse at \$25 each from a local school district. After discussion, it was decided not to go ahead with the purchase.

Elections: N3LBI mentioned that nomination forms are available for elections. They are due by next meeting.

Additional tower: N3LBI mentioned that the club was offered a tower and a 5 band quad to take down on E 32nd and Florida. The club would have to pay for the bucket truck to get it down because it is surrounded by buildings. The membership decided not to go ahead with the project.

Purchase of Chairs: N3NKV made a motion that the club purchase a dozen folding metal chairs at Wal-Mart at approx 9.00 each to replace the plastic lawn chairs. N3ZNP mentioned that he may be donate some wooded chairs. N3NKV rescinded his motion.

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Tower Law continued

"The fact that the Virginia state code specifically had some numbers in it and some clear language in it, that carried more weight with [county officials] than what PRB-1 says, which basically says, 'you'll accommodate the amateur,' but doesn't give any guidelines to localities," Gregory said. It didn't hurt either when the specter of litigation was raised. The county attorney told the Board of Supervisors that, given Virginia's Amateur Radio Antenna statute, the Board would be on shaky legal ground in trying to require a CUP and likely would lose if the case landed in court, Gregory said.

Before even approaching the Stafford County Board of Supervisors with an eye toward changing the ordinance, Cheek and Gregory boned up on antenna restrictions via the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/antenna-restrictions.html> as well as local codes and ordinances throughout the commonwealth. As a result, Gregory said, they were able to educate county officials about ham radio and its benefits to the community. Armed with extensive ARRL materials, a copy of the Virginia Amateur Radio antenna law and the assistance of ARRL Volunteer Counsel George Marzloff, K4GM, Gregory and Cheek testified before the county Planning Commission to urge adoption of changes to permit Amateur Radio by right. Gregory, Cheek, and other radio amateurs, including Stafford County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bart Bartholomew, N3GQ, also testified before the full Board of Supervisors, which adopted the zoning ordinance revisions August 1. The revised ordinance also specifically defines Amateur Radio for the first time.

Gregory encouraged radio amateurs in the 27 states lacking Amateur Radio antenna laws to work toward getting one on the books.

- ARRL

September Meeting Minutes Continued

KE3V reported that the Butler Hamfest was coming up this weekend.

KE3V also reported that the PA QSO PARTY will be taking place October 14th and 15th.

50/50: Winner K3GJK amount \$7.00

Motion to adjourn made at 8:09 by N3LBI seconded by WB3DOM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lis
Radio Association of Erie Secretary

You might be addicted to ham radio if?

When you notice that the wife and kids have left you, you place a personal ad something like this, divorced male, hardcore ham radio operator, secure job, seeks female ham operator send pictures of radios, amplifiers, towers and antenna farm.

When your reaction to a solar flare bringing down the entire electric grid for the North East is that the bands will tank for a week or more.

When you look forward to the Super Bowl, because there won't be a lot of QRM.

When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you'd need.

When you think ceramics classes teach how to make antenna insulators.

PA QSO PARTY

The 49th Annual running of the Pennsylvania QSO Party will be coming up in about 2 weeks, the second weekend in October, the 14th & 15th.

More information about the contest, and complete up-to-date rules for 2006 can be found at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>. There are many changes and updates this year, including the addition of RTTY and PSK-31 modes!

The Special Event (or Bonus) Station for this year's contest is Wireless Association of South Hills (N3SH). WASH will be operating multiple N3SH stations from multiple counties in order to maximize the number of potential bonus points available to everyone in the contest (each contact with N3SH is worth a 200 point bonus, and you can contact N3SH once per band/mode/county combination... it can add up quickly!). At present, there are plans to operate N3SH

from Washington, Allegheny, Fayette, Clarion, Venango and McKean Counties, and they will also have a mobile station setup. Many of the N3SH stations will be operating on the new digital modes, and on VHF too.

Certificates will be available for those contacting multiple N3SH stations, along with other memorabilia.

Interested, but don't have a lot of time that weekend, or not familiar with contesting and/or HF operating? Not to worry... The RAE is inviting any interested member to come out to the clubhouse and operate the W3GV Club Stations. There's plenty of room for everyone, so if you're interested, don't feel left out!

For More information on the RAE Clubhouse PA QSO Party operations contact Kevin KE3V or Bob N3LBI or Doug AD4UL.

Second Tower Goes up at the Clubhouse



A big thanks goes out to Gerry W2FD and Doug AD4UL for getting the second tower up at the clubhouse. The 2 meter, 6 meter, and 440 yagis should be going up on the tower for contesting.

Election Season is Here

Election Season is here. We keep our elections simple. No hanging chads nor do we have to worry about the voting machines breaking down. If you are interested in becoming part of the RAE Leadership Team, it is really simple.



Nominations should be submitted to a member of the election committee using the nomination form below.

Members of the election committee will be announced at the October meeting. At the October General meeting, additional nominations will be taken from the floor. After the October meeting is adjourned, no additional nominations will be accepted. At the November General meeting, elections will be conducted by the Election Committee.

The offices up for election are:

Business Officers: (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) 1 Yr Term

Directors: Two Directors (1—3 year Term) (1– 3 Year Term)

2007 NOMINATION FORM FOR CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE IN THE RADIO ASSOCIATION of ERIE

Office: Nominee

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Secretary: _____

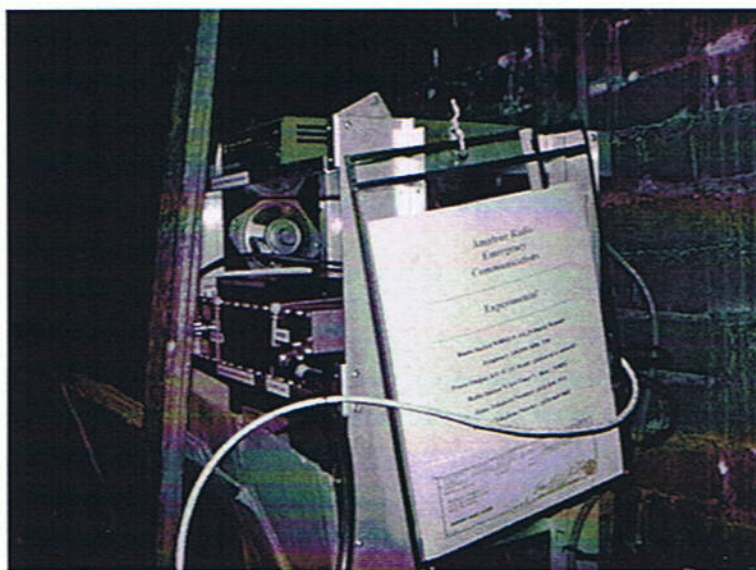
Treasurer: _____

Board of Directors-3 yr: _____

Board of Directors-3 yr: _____

Requires signature of 2 active or life members:

ERI Packet Station Relocation



These are photos of the packet station located now at the EMA EOC at 17th and French. A hardwired permanent laptop is now in place in the war room. The hardware is located up in the ceiling and the antenna is married to the tripod that houses the dual band 2m - 440 ant. On the EOC roof. We are waiting for emergency back up electricity to be placed but in the mean time it is up and operating on commercial power with battery backup at 10 watts. All this thanks to Ron N3BXL the equipment owner, Bill KB3JSN, Matt KB3CAT, and Steve N3SRD each who helped obtain the location and install the equipment.

Radio Association of Erie

P.O. Box 844

Erie, Pa 16512

Swap and Shop

K3KSB-Milt Berringer Estate

I have the following items from Milt Berringer's K3KSB ham shack for sale. Milt is now in a nursing home and at his families request I'm helping to dispose these . No reasonable offer will be refused on any item:

Knight Kit T-150 Transmitter 80 thru 6-\$20.00, Knight Kit T-60 Transmitter-\$15.00, Mataic #10B Electronic Keyer-\$10.00, HeathKit VF-1 VFO-\$5.00, MFJ-720 CW Filter-\$10.00, UPC Wire Antenna Tuner-\$10.00, Ameco VHF Converter Model CN—6 METER W/ PS--\$10.00, 2-Micronta SWR Meter and Field ST. Meter-\$3.00each. Triplett #650 VTVM-\$10.00, Tripp-Lite P.S. 10Amp, G.E. 40Ch. CB Model #3-5812A-\$2.00

And a lot of other loose items . No Reasonable Offer Refused. .Call K3SBU at 814-899-2107 or e-mail bobanne54@juno.com

**Please check into the Erie County ARES-RACES SKYWARN NET on the
W3GV Repeaters on Sunday nights at 9 pm**